TUMORAH'S SOUTHERN MESSENGER

DECEMBER 1957

VOL. 32 NO. 12.

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GREETINGS

IT'S hard to know just what to say for Christmas greeting that will add to the spirit and significance of this grand season. So many beautiful things have been written, and many more said, that it leaves us little to add.

We pray continually that each Christmas greeting that is made, and each word of peace that is uttered during this season, might be matched by a kind act, a growth of unselfishness, or an honest attempt to be tolerant. We also pray that the wonderful associations which have been enjoyed by the missionaries and members in the South African Mission for so many years, might be extended as we review the Christmas message, and strengthen our faith in the Saviour of mankind.

So, although we can say little that is profound or poetical, we would like to add our small and humble greeting to this season:

The words are not original
But, none the less, sincere,
When we wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy, bright New Year.

—The Mission Office staff

Mission President Glen G. Fisher
Sister Holly Fisher
Elder L. E. Dahl
Elder J. R. Hicken
Sister Kriste Miller
Sister Arlene Wilkenson
Elder C. T. Asplund

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Cumorah's Southern Messenger

Editor: Glen G. Fisher.

Assoc. Editor: C. T. Asplund.

DECEMBER 1957

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COVER

CHRISTMAS MAGIC

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THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

A RECENT South African visitor to Salt Lake City was Dr. Avril Ire Malan, member of Parliament for the Gesina, Transvaal Constituency, and president of the board of directors of Volksas, Ltd.

Dr. Malan, a former university professor, visited the United States on a U.S. State Department Leader Exchange Programme. He stopped in Salt Lake on October 10 and 11, where former South African mission president, Evan P. Wright, acted as host.

The highlight of the visit was an interview with President David O. McKay. President McKay must have recalled his visit to Dr. Malan's country four years ago.

The Malans were taken for a visit to Welfare Square and other points of interest in the Utah community.

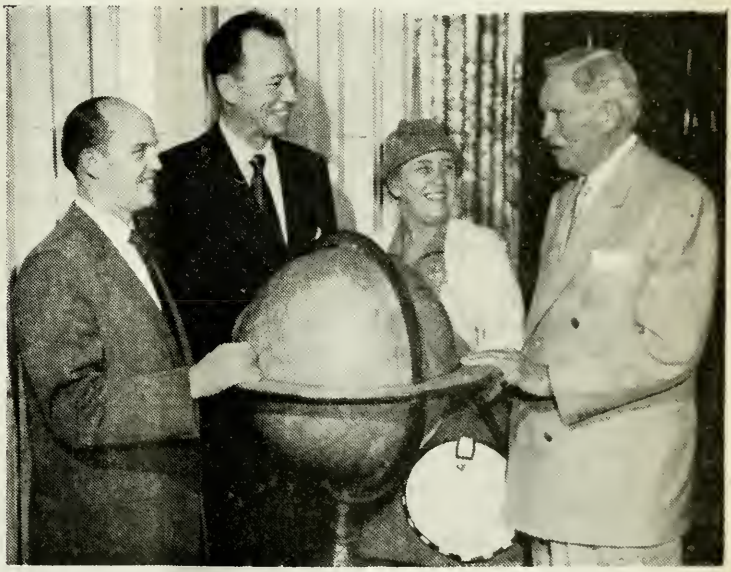
On one evening President Wright gathered a group of friends and relatives at his restaurant and a pleasant evening was enjoyed with the visiting South Africans.

The next evening the Malans showed films to a large group at the home of the Wrights.

AN American beauty queen, gracefully poised on a soapbox, rather upset the routine of famous Speakers' Corner at Hyde Park, London. She also spoke in a street meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland.

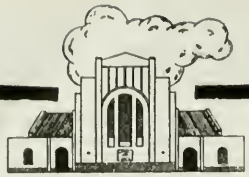
The usual hecklers paid rapt attention, and large crowd gathered as Charlotte Sheffield, Miss USA in the Miss World contest, valiantly explained the principles of Mormonism.

Miss Sheffield is a member of the Church from Salt Lake City. She has availed herself of Church activities wherever her travels as a beauty queen have taken her. While in London she attended several Church meetings. One evening, as she listened to the elders speaking in Hyde Park, she was asked if she would like to address the crowd. For 20 minutes she did a magnificent job and most other meetings dispersed to hear the lovely lady explain her religion.



Dr. Avril Ire Malan, a South African Visitor to Salt Lake City, and his wife chat with President David O. McKay in his office. Dr. Malan's host, former mission president, Evan P. Wright stands at the left.

EDITORIAL



A PROPHET & PEACE

ONE striking feature of the everlasting gospel is that it always operates according to eternal laws and principles. Those principles are the same yesterday, today and forever, and when they seem to vary, then is the time for thinking men to examine their beliefs.

Paul stressed this to the Galatian saints when he warned them:

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1: 6-8.)

Many of the basic teachings of Paul and his brethren to the early saints concerned the vital necessity of phophetic guidance. Paul even described the Church resting on a foundation of apostles and prophets. (Ephesians 2:19-21). And this capable missionary, a noted Jewish scholar and a man who had brilliantly defended his religion in the courts of kings before the mighty men of the world, humbly testified:

"But I certify you brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

"For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by **the revelation of Jesus Christ."**

Could the truth be more obvious? Could the promise of the prophet who taught that, "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets," be more plainly fulfilled?

Even a small child, who hears only the simple Bible stories cannot overlook this truth . . . . that God has always worked through established and chosen prophets to guide his righteous children. How much more obvious should be this eternal truth to an honest and experienced student of the scriptures?

It is strange that when Joseph Smith preached such doctrine he was shunned and ridiculed. It is strange that when he brought this concept to an era that thought itself the most enlightened and advanced in human history, he should be rejected and persecuted by those who had assumed the positions of religious scholars and Christian ministers.

It would have been bitterly shocking to Joseph Smith's mother if she could have known on that cold December morning in 1805, that her son would eventually die for daring to believe that a merciful Father would guide his groping children.

But then, persecution and martyrdom are also part of the eternal principles of the true gospel, for persecution has always been the lot of the prophets, and violent death often their reward.

At this season, when "Peace" is a principle that occupies a hallowed position in our thoughts, it might be well to remember the Prophet Joseph Smith and his gift of peace.

Consider the profound peace of mind that can come by faithfully accepting the divinity of the restored gospel which teaches that "men are that they might have joy."

Appreciate the contentment that will come when we can sincerely accept the companionship of God, knowing that his work and his glory is "to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."

But Joseph Smith preached no new gospel. He did not replace the ten commandments. He gave no new Sermon on the Mount. He preached no new Saviour but Christ. This Latter-day prophet merely added peace of mind to those who diligently search for truth by assuring them that God lives and his interest in his children never ceases. Joseph Smith only bore testimony of the divinity and reality of our Saviour and his resurrection.

To the dried and twisted Christianity, from which the spirit had departed, he added the life . . . . and the assuring peace . . . . of a fervent testimony. "Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Reedeemer, the Great I Am, whose arm of mercy hath atoned for your sins;

"Who will gather his people even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, even as many as will heaken to my voice and humble themselves before me, and call upon me in mighty prayer."

Promise of Peace

By PRESIDENT GLEN G. FISHER

NEARLY 2000 years ago, shepherds were tending their flocks on the hills of Judea when **"Lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them".** From the lips of the heavenly messenger came these words:

> "I bring you good tidings of great joy; which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord . . . And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will toward men."

This prophetic utterance and its fulfilment came at a time when the then-known world was in turmoil. The Roman Empire, the greatest political organization the world had ever known, was ruled by a dictator. There was great splendour in the land and men held high the material things of the world. Conquest for power and wealth occupied the minds and efforts of the nations. Even the Jewish people, who were the only group in the known world who believed in God, had caught the spirit of the times and were looking for a mighty ruler and king to deliver them from bondage and from under Roman domination.

What a contrast was the **"birth"** of the Christ Child. He was born amid the lowliest surroundings, as a reminder to the world that the humblest and most down-trodden of mankind, as well as those in more favoured circumstances, are children of God and subjects of His merciful care.

What a contrast to the times were His life and teachings. Everything He did and said was opposed to evil and wrong-doing. The world then, as today, was in need of **"the peace"** He had to offer.

* * *

To those who are the perpetrators of war He has said:

> "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for those which despitefully use you, and persecute you."
>
> (Matt. 5:44.)

What a different world we would have if nations, as well as individuals, would follow this admonition. Mankind has seemingly forgotten the warning:

> "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer; and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abounding in him." (1 John 3:15.)

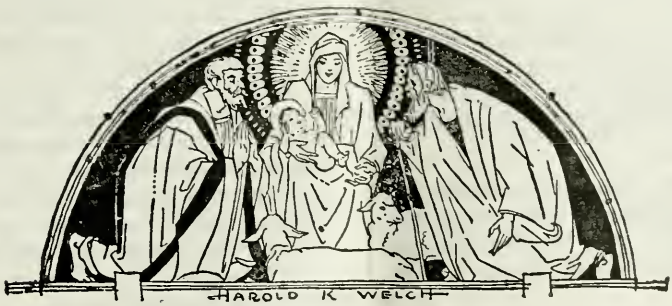
To the covetous and selfish He has said:

> "Take heed, and beware; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Even as on one hand He has vehemently condemned hypocrisy and evil, so on the other hand He has brought comfort and peace to the poor, the down-trodden, to the meek, the repentant sinner and all who would follow Him. Who in the Christian world has not been lifted from the depths of discouragement and sorrow by the Master's words?

> "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30.)

To those who have lost faith, He has said:



"I am the light which shineth in the darkness, I am the way, the truth and the life, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die; and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free". (John 1:5, 11, 25-26, 8:32.)

To those who have strayed from the path of righteousness, these words of "Our Lord" to the woman who had grievously sinned bring an assurance of forgiveness.

"Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more." (John 8: 11.)

Added to this the Prophet Isaiah has stated: "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool". (Isaiah 1: 16, 18.)

To the sick and afflicted He has said through one of His chief Apostles:

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." (James 5:14-15.)

These, and many more things, did our Saviour say, and do for us. The Heavenly Messenger did not declare his tidings in vain. "Peace and good will toward men" will triumph in the world today, even as it has in the hearts of men these many years; and even as it triumphed over the great Roman Empire on that eventful night "when Christ was born."

These challenging words bring hope and faith for the future . . .

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; **I have overcome the world.**" (John 16: 33.)

May God bless good people everywhere and in the spirit of Christmas I extend to our members and friends in this land of sunshine the Season's Greetings and Prosperity for the year ahead.

PRIESTHOOD CORNER

By Brother C. Spear

(Bloemfontein)

IN the 121st Section of the Doctrine and Covenants the Lord tells us, in his revealed word, that many are called to the Priesthood, but few are chosen.

What did he mean? Just this: God calls you to the Priesthood and gives you an opportunity to receive the blessings that come with it. However, the Priesthood holder, by his own efforts, determines whether he will be chosen to exercise divine power.

What must we do to make sure that we will be of the chosen?

When a man is ordained to the Priesthood he assumes a greater responsibility and duty to live the laws of the gospel. Only by obedience to divine law can he assure that he is worthy to be chosen to exercise his Priesthood.

A bearer of the Priesthood must have a strong testimony of the divinity of the gospel teachings and of Joseph Smith's mission in reestablishing the Church of Jesus Christ on earth. Without such a testimony his Priesthood would have no foundation.

A man who holds the Priesthood should know, and subscribe fully to, the Articles of Faith, for they are a guide to the principle teachings and basic beliefs of the Church.

He must observe the Word of Wisdom fully. No man should exercise his Priesthood if he is not keeping the Word of Wisdom.

He must obey the law of Sabbath observance. If a Priesthood bearer does not attend his sacrament meetings and renew his covenants with the Lord regularly, he is not fit to fulfill his divine calling.

Finally, a member of a Priesthood quorum must deal fairly and honestly with all of his fellow men. If he has done any dishonest or unfair thing his Priesthood gives him no blessing until he has made restitution for that which he has done.

These are some of the minimum requirements which one must fulfil in order to be chosen. The Lord warns us that if we exercise the Priesthood when we are unworthy we are laying up condemnation for ourselves. In view of this, let us always be sure that we are worthy to exercise our Priesthood whenever we are called upon, and magnify that power which is entrusted to us.

DEAR TO MY HEART

By Sister Holly W. Fisher,
Mission Relief Society President

DEAR to my heart is Christmas tide . . . a time of loving and giving and renewed friendships; a time of rejoicing and meditating.

Many complain about this season saying, "It is too commercialized." But isn't it, after all, just the way in which we care to look at it.

It has been my opportunity to serve many people commercially in our own business and I have found that at Christmas time everyone thinks of someone else, never worrying about themselves. It was always "wouldn't it be nice to give this to Mrs. Brown"; or, "I think I'll surprise Aunt Mary with something this year": or, "my neighbour has been so kind to me, I should like to show my appreciation with a small gift this Christmas." And so it is for weeks before; planning and budgeting, becoming happier and more excited as the time draws near. (It seemed that no one was thinking entirely of himself.)

Many also complain, saying we start Christmas too early. But, can we start too early to commemorate the Saviour's birth? We might do well to keep it in our minds the year around.

However, at this time of the year particularly, we find it in our hearts to help the unfortunate: we are more willing to go the second mile.

* * *

The most beautiful Christmas that one family (with which I am well acquainted) ever had was when they gave their entire Christmas dinner to a widow with five small children, who otherwise would have had a very scant meal. If possible, that generous family was happier than the fatherless children. **"Not what we give, but what we share, for the gift without the giver is bare; who gives himself with his alms feeds three—himself, his hungering neighbour, and me."**

I, from a colder clime, missed the snow and sleigh bells and frosty rides, on my first Christmas here in South Africa. I rather thought it took the edge off the occasion. On thinking it over, however, I remember that there was no snow in Bethlehem on that eventful night. It was warm and lovely. The stars were shining. The shepherds were watching their flocks peacefully.

It is lovely to ponder Christmas in our minds. A warmth and glow seems to permeate us. This is the time that mothers and fathers look forward to from one year to another, for their family is probably coming home for a visit; and they will be together again, enjoying each other.

This holiday season brings back memories of our childhood days and the fun we had with mother and dad. In the midst of the excitement of gifts, surprises and all that goes with the day, father had us pause for a prayer of thanksgiving. — thanksgiving for the supreme gift, the gift to the entire world, the priceless gift signifying loving and giving, the result of which brings peace to our hearts.

* * *

There is a legend of the little new bell in a great cathedral who didn't know what to sing on Christmas day. After listening to the people in the street below for a week or so, he decided to sing:

"Loving — giving —
Loving — giving."

Soon all the bells joined in the beautiful chime.

May each and every one of us, in this lovely land, hold the spirit of Christmas dear to our hearts.

This is the only thing that can bring about the "restitution of all things spoken of by all the holy Prophets since the world was"—"the dispensation of the fullness of times, when God shall gather together all things in one". Other attempts to promote universal peace and happiness in the human family have proved abortive; every effort has failed; every plan and design has fallen to the ground; it needs the wisdom of God, the intelligence of God, the power of God to accomplish this.

—Joseph Smith.

KINDNESS & PRIESTHOOD

By PRESIDENT D. V. VICE (Krugersdorp)

A SECRET of Priesthood power is **kindness.** It is the master-key to the Priesthood's operation. Without kindness a man's Priesthood just could not function. His Priesthood would not be magnified and through disuse it would wane and die.

The scriptures tell us this, and many are the warnings given that we should not attempt to use this authority unrighteously. All Priesthood holders should read often section 121 of the Doctrine and Covenants. "No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the Priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned. By kindness, and pure knowledge . . ."

This is the advice of that scripture, and every male member of the Church should hold these words in memory.

Throughout the ages the outstanding Priesthood bearers have been noted for their great kindness. They were men who gave freely of their sympathy, love and understanding to all the children of our Heavenly Father, irrespective of race, colour or creed. They were men who have shown the world that "men are great only as they are kind."

Our Master, himself, proved this whilst on earth, by filling His life with kind deeds. His life was dedicated with love and kindness for humanity. Even His dying breath was a kind prayer of forgiveness. His work and His glory is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

There are many fine, honest and just men living today who hold the Priesthood or will hold it someday. Now is the time to prepare for its blessings, and now is the time to magnify it, by doing little deeds of kindness to our fellow men.

Those who hold the Priesthood—the greatest gift to mortal man—must realize the urgent necessity for kindness. Never has this sad old world needed the gospel of love more. It is a reasonable duty of each Priesthood bearer to show his appreciation for the blessing he has been given by a kind and benevolent Heavenly Father, to work with deeds of kindness, and strive to establish the kingdom of God.

A thought is well expressed in these lines of verse:

To let no thought go unexpressed
That might give someone pleasure:
To say no word I might regret
In later hours of leisure;
To do the kindly little deeds
That made life worth living:
To overlook another's faults
Nor fail to be forgiving;
To strive to leave each task well done
And make a joy of duty;
Unceasingly to give God thanks
For life and love and beauty;
To honour God and, loving Him,
Love, as myself, my neighbour;
This, the high test of perfect love—
The goal toward which to labour.

APPOINTMENTS

Elder Dan. L. Chipman of Welling, Alberta, was appointed branch president of the Salisbury Branch on October 29, 1957.

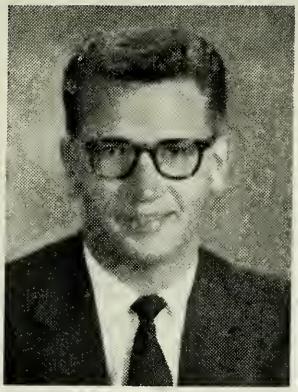
Elder C. K. Lybbert of Beaver Crossing, Alberta, was appointed branch president of the Bulawayo Branch on October 29, 1957.

Elder M. D. Caldwell of Cardston, Alberta, was appointed supervising elder of the Northern Rhodesia District on November 5, 1957.

Elder I. K. Burbank was appointed supervising elder of the East Rand District on December 1, 1957.

Elder K. H. Salmon was appointed supervising elder of the Port Elizabeth District on December 1, 1957.

NEW APPOINTMENT



ELDER L. E. DAHL, (Second Counsellor)

Elder Larry E. Dahl was set apart as second counsellor to Mission President Glen G. Fisher on November 30, 1957.

Elder Dahl is the son of Elder and Mrs. R. H. Dahl of Raymond, Alberta, Canada, and a brother to Elder Jack Dahl, a former South African missionary.

Before coming on his mission Elder Dahl was an active member of his ward and his community. He has been a Sunday School teacher, MIA chorister and ward teaching supervisor in his ward. Also, he was active in athletics in his home town. He was studying pharmacy when he received his mission call.

The new second counsellor brings to his work a great deal of missionary experience. Elder Dahl arrived in South Africa on February 16, 1956. He worked for a short time in Port Elizabeth before being called to the mission office the first time. For several months he laboured at Cumorah as supervisor of mission auxiliaries, mission historian and associate editor of the C.S.M.

Before receiving his new appointment Elder Dahl had been branch president of the Salisbury Branch.

He succeededs Elder K. L. Hadfield, who completed his mission early in November.

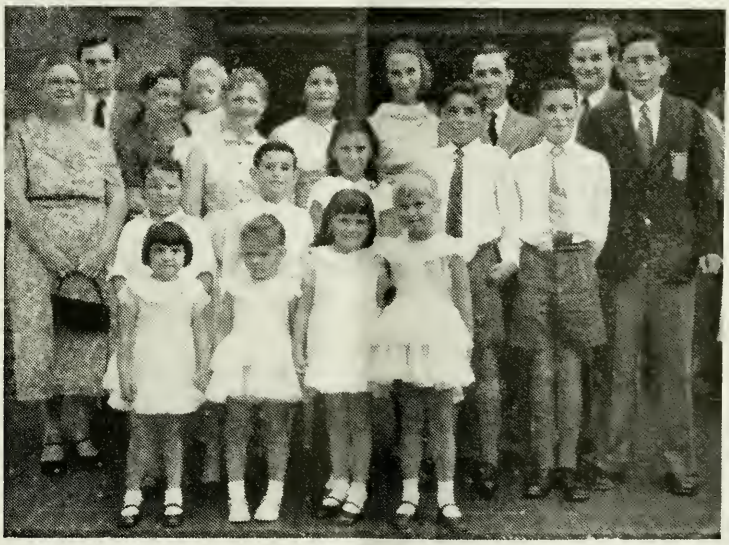
DURBAN BAPTISM

Sunday, November 10, was a day that brought much joy to the hearts of members and missionaries of the Natal district as they witnessed the largest baptismal service ever to be held in that district.

There were fourteen persons who entered the waters of baptism and became members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Thirteen of them were converts.

Besides the great number of baptisms six small children were blessed.

Over 80 members and friends gathered for the service. Talks were given by Elder Jesse Gibb and Elder Mark Merrill concerning the significance and responsibility of baptism. Brother Percy Winstanley sang the hymn, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives."



New Durban members; picture left to right, (first row): Lynnette Miller, Corinne Ouwerkerk, Gaye Miller, Lesley Ouwerkerk. (Second row): Charles van Coller, Stewart Miller, Heather Miller, Malcomb Miller, Brian Miller, Nigel Miller. (Third row): Margaret Grantham, George Fawdry, Elizabeth Winstanley, Faith Winstanley, Marlene Henning, Merle Ann Miller, Estelle Ouwerkerk, Gerard M. Ouwerkerk and Brian Sharpe.

SEASON'S

BELLVILLE BRANCH

The Bellville Branch express their appreciation and gratitude for the love and friendship of all those who have been, and still are associated with us in our efforts to live the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to make it a "way of life."

At this time we extend to all our brothers and sisters our sincere wishes for joy and and happiness at Christmas, and throughout th New Year. May our Heavenly Father bless and keep you.

President N. J. Goosen.

BENONI BRANCH

Another year is being ushered to a close. In keeping with the wonderful feeling of Christmas, may we, of the Benoni Branch, wish our mission president and his family and every member in the mission a very "Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year". We sincerely desire that the true meaning of Christmas will be felt and understood.

We appreciate the hard work done, the new ideas and help given to us by President and Sister Fisher, and their son Gary.

President John H. Adendorff.

BLOEMFONTEIN BRANCH

The members of the Bloemfontein Branch send to the rest of the mission our fraternal greetings and a message of good cheer for the festive season. We suggest that in addition to commemorating the first advent of our Saviour, we use this opportunity to combine our prayers for the speedy fulfilment of His promise to return to this earth, and of the blessings promised the faithful at his return.

Alle Heil en Seën aan die Afrikaans sprekende lede van ons gemeente.

President Sydney J. Spear.

BULAWAYO BRANCH

We, of the Bulawayo Branch, send our sincere Christmas greetings to every person in South African Mission.

We love you all and relish the past experiences we have had together. May we keep in mind, throughout the holiday season and the approaching New Year, the significance of the Saviour's birth and the blessings he has given us. May we all strive to keep his commandments more fully.

We send the best wishes for the coming New Year. May you have health, prosperity and happiness.

President C. K. Lybbert.

EAST LONDON BRANCH.

"Peace on Earth. Goodwill toward men."

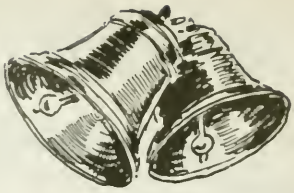
With these familiar and oft-repeated words the branch presidency and members of the East London Branch greet President and Sister Fisher and family, the missionaries labouring in our land, and all fellow saints throughout the mission. We pray that the Spirit of the Lord will be with all Saints at this Christmastide, and throughout the coming year, that they may enjoy the rich blessings of good health and good fellowship.

President A. J. Corrigan.

KRUGERSDORP BRANCH.

The members of the Krugersdorp Branch take pride in uniting their message of Christmas cheer with those of the other branches in the mission.

GREETINGS



Our sincerest wishes for a joyous Christmas and a very happy and successful New Year go out to every fellow member in the South African Mission and to all readers of the C.S.M. throughout the world.

We pray that during this festive season a rich outpouring of love may be experienced . . . . that a spirit of forgiveness and understanding may prevail, and that the time be not too far distant when, through the gospel of Jesus Christ, the brotherhood of man becomes a reality and we truly have "Peace on Earth. Goodwill towards men".

President Deryck V. Vice.

NORTH WESTERN BRANCH

Oh, saints of Southern Africa; oh, missionaries here at work;
Oh, sisters, brothers, all in love, through our president so staunch
We sent greetings to you all.
May we at this Christmas season remember what the Saviour said:
"Peace on Earth. Goodwill to men." So let us all begin right now,
And show good will to every soul.
The spirit of love to all impart, and show the world we love the Lord.
Our wish to you on Christmas day, "May happiness your carpet be,
And always keep your steps within the narrow way.

President William Brummer.

PIETERMARITZBURG BRANCH

Naturally, at this time of the year, with so much to remind us of Our Saviour, His teachings and His mission, our thoughts turn to the lovely things of this life. Among these is the friendship and love that we have for one another in His gospel. So, with this in mind, the members of the Pietermaritzburg Branch wish you all the compliments of the season, and may the Lord bless us all in the New Year.

President R. M. Morrissey.

PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH

We bring the greetings from the members of the Port Elizabeth Branch to all saints in South Africa at this holiday season. Permanent peace has long been sought by so many who have failed to find it. Yet, so much joy and peace has been experienced by members of this branch by sharing the gospel with others. We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful New Year.

President C. R. Doller.

PRETORIA BRANCH

The branch presidency, on behalf of the Pretoria Branch, wish all Latter-day Saints, throughout the world, everything of the best for the coming festive season.

On this, the celebration of the 1957th anniversary of the birth of our Redeemer, may our thoughts turn to His great sacrifice on our behalf, with the resolution to live up to His admonition: "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, might and strength."

President C. L. Bibb.

RAMAH BRANCH.

At this time of the year our thoughts are focused on the greatset event in history . . . . the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who brought the wondrous promise of eternal life to all who would follow Him.

In conveying greetings from the Ramah Branch may I express the hope that a greater understanding may come to all of us at this Christmas time of the meaning of our Saviour's words to Peter when he said, "Come, follow me".

President K. B. Chater.

SALISBURY BRANCH.

The members of the Salisbury Branch are grateful for this opportunity to extend to you "season's greetings".

It is our wish for you that during this Christmas season you will experience a great deal of joy and happiness as you gather together with families and friends. We hope, too, that each and everyone of us will have the true Spirit of Christmas in our hearts to help others to enjoy this memorable season.

President D. L. Chipman.

TRANSVAAL DISTRICT

On behalf of the district presidency and members of the Church in the Transvaal District I wish to send our very best wishes to President Fisher, Sister Fisher, their family, and all members and missionaries in the South African Mission, at the Christmas time.

I feel that we, in this mission, have been greatly blessed in this past year. We think of the lovely chapels that we have been blessed with. We think of the fine work that our missionaries have done in our land, and the many fine brothers and sisters with their families that have been brought into the Church.

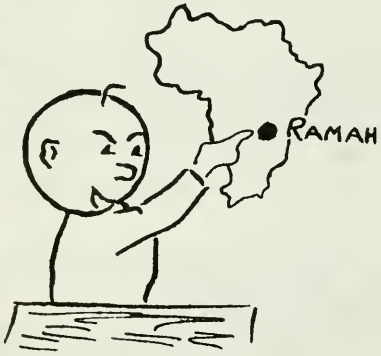
I pray that the Lord will bless you all, that you may have a most enjoyable Christmas Season, and that in the coming year you may all be blessed with health and strength to carry out your righteous desire. That you may enjoy the companionship of the Holy Spirit every day is my humble prayer.

President I. C. Louw.

NATAL DISTRICT.

As we enter into another festive season, the Natal District desires to wish all Latter-day Saints throughout the mission field "seasons' greetings". May we all pause and meditate as to the great significance of this celebrated birthday of the Son of God. Let us continue with faith in His restored gospel as a solution to all problems, and proclaim to the world, "We have tried Christianity for eighteen hundred years, now le us try the religion of Christ".

President E. D. LeBaron.



ALL ROADS LEAD TO RAMAH

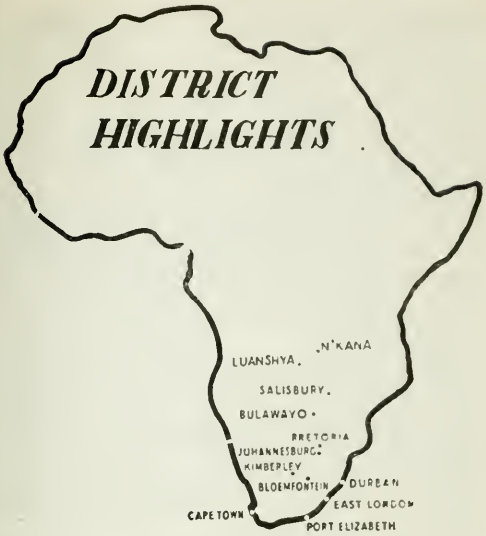
MIA CONVENTION

DECEMBER 27, 28 and 29

END THE YEAR RIGHT! BE THERE!

TICKETS FOR THE BANQUET AND DANCE ARE STILL AVAILABLE.

RRANCH NOTES &



RAMAH BRANCH

Meetings: I Hunter Street, Highlands, Johannesburg.
Branch President: K. B. Chater; phone 45-5575.
Branch Reporter: Dorothy Hamilton.

A games afternoon was held on October 19 by the MIA. There was badminton in the afternoon and a braaivleis in the evening. Almost everyone stayed to dance afterwards and they all had an enjoyable time.

A baptismal service was held on October 27. We welcome into the Church, Sister Dorothy Houldsworth, Sister Annie Houldsworth, the Swart family, Brother John Hamilton, Brother Keith Copeland and Sister Catharina van Niekerk. Sister van Niekerk was baptized by Brother Johann Brummer in Afrikaans. As far as is known, this is the first time this has ever been done.

Tersia and Aubery Rautenbach, children from the Primrose Branch, were blessed at Ramah this month, as well as little Roy Rutherford, Gregory Ninow, Carol Anne and Gregory Swart, and Brenda and Sharon Uren.

Our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future go to Sister Sarita Stemmet and Johnannes Groenewald, who were married on October 12.

We are sorry to lose the Schafer family who have moved to the North Western Branch.

The Hallowe'en party held by the MIA was a great success, with ghosts, witches and party crackers. The fancy dress costumes were excellent, so it was difficult to chose the best. The judges awarded prizes to Claire Kendrick and Yvonne Ninow, costumed as "missionary and investigator". Kelvin Donly as "the dominee", and George Mason, with friend, as tramps, also won prizes.

A square dance was held on November 1 by the building fund committee. It was well attended by the Branch.

The programme for Sunday, November 3, was arranged by the branch presidency. Colin Kroesen was the first speaker. Supervising Elder Smith and Elder H. Boucher gave their farewell talks at the service.

As a result of an anonymous donation, the junior Sunday School are getting new hymn books. The first batch has arrived already.

Mrs. Moeller gave another cake-icing demonstration for the Relief Society on November 9. Her speed and novel ideas once again impressed everybody. We are looking forward to another visit from her.

Our parking lot is looking very presentable now that it has been tarmaced. The Municipality has been very co-operative and the pavements will be tarred in due course, as well.

Aubrey Elliott is seriously ill and we all pray for his speedy recovery.

DURBAN BRANCH

Meetings: 144 Silverton Road, Durban. Phone 49369.
Branch President: J. M. Jakins; phone 44347.
Branch Reporter: Joyce Wahlburn.

The largest baptism ever to take place in the Durban Branch was held on November 9. We welcome into our midst: Brother and Sister Gerard M. Ouwerkerk; Brother George Fawdry; Sister Winstanley, Sister Merle Miller and her four eldest children, Nigel, Malcolm, Heather and Brian; Brother Brian; Sharpe Sister Marlene Henning; and Brother Charles van Coller. Marlene and Charles were baptized by their proud fathers. Sister Grantham of the Pietermaritzburg Branch was also baptized at this time. The young children of Sister Miller and the baby daughter of Brother and Sister Winstanley were blessed on the same day.

The marriage took place on October 26 of Sister Daphne Wahlburn and Mr. Johannes Smit. Due to unforeseen circumstances President Fisher was unable to perform the ceremony. Fortunately Rev. de Villiers of the Presbyterian Church came to our rescue and carried out the service somewhat belatedly, but none the less, beautifully.

The evening of that same day the choir held a braaivleis, at which President and Sister Fisher were the guests of honour. The following day the branch held conference and we had the privilege of listening to the counsel of the mission president and his wife. It was with deep regret that we learned of the illness of Sister Fisher shortly after she had left our branch.

We are very proud of the lovely new electric organ which has recently been installed in our chapel.

A baby son, Rolf, was born to Brother and Sister Randall on November 16.

Little Stella Erasmus has been very ill. Paul Henning has a broken arm. We miss these youngsters in our junior Sunday School.

The sacrament meeting of November 24 was tinged with sadness. It was a farewell to Brother and Sister van Rooyen who have left Durban to return to Bloemfontein. They were presented with a painting of our chapel done by Brother Clifford Schubach.

President Jakins has been forced to rest from his responsibilities on advice from his doctor. We pray that he will have a rapid recovery from his condition.

We were very proud of our Relief Society on the first Sunday of November, when they

presented their special programme. They had practised for many weeks, and the results of their work was very enjoyable.

SPRINGS BRANCH

Meetings: 23 Eleventh Street, Springs.
Branch President: H. deC. Hugo; phone 56-5098.
Branch Reporter: N. C. van Niekerk.

On November 3 the Relief Society took charge of the evening service and presented a very interesting programme portraying the progress of the auxiliary from its beginning down to the dedication of its beautiful new headquarters. Sister Mavis Louw made appropriate opening remarks.

We were happy to have Mr. and Sister Sawyer from Krugersdorp visit us on the first Sunday of November.

The Relief Society held a very successful bazaar on November 19, which gained them an appreciable sum of money.

Recently Sister Beverley Louw was made captain of the ladies section of the Daggafontein Swimming Club.

As visitors on November 17 we had Brother and Sister Atkins from Rhodesia.

At the evening service that night the junior choir, under the baton of Brother John Troskie, sang, "Though Deepening Trails". Sister Nola Troskie accompanied the group. Elder K. H. Salmon addressed the service. He is soon to be transferred to Port Elizabeth and we will miss him greatly.

Sister Koetze of Brakpan has been in the Far-East Rand Hospital for an operation. Brother Johnson, one of the pioneer members of the branch, is still convalescing in the same hospital. We pray that they will recover speedily.

On November 22 the Sunday School held a very successful Hamburger Party, with square dancing. Brother Hulbert furnished the music and Brother Ronnie Louw did the calling. The function was highly successful.

Brother Ronald Louw and Brother Ken Armstrong were the speakers at the sacrament service on November 24. Both of these young men delivered fine addresses.

Immediately after the service a fireside chat was held in the form of a Book of Mormon quiz, with Brother Hulbert asking the questions.

MOWBRAY BRANCH

Meetings: "Cumorah", Main Road, Mowbray.
Branch President: Alwin Hubert; phone 45275.
Branch Reporter: Beatrice E. Smith.

On account of so many other activities going, it was decided not to hold a Hallowe'en party this year. Instead, our young people got together and spent the evening of October 29 playing games.

The Relief Society presented a beautiful programme in our chapel on Sunday, November 3. The programme was based on the dedication of the new Relief Society building in Salt Lake City, and was called "a Dream and its Fulfillment". Reading was done by Sister Amy Hyland and Sister Ivy Fourie. Colour, costumes from many lands, and lovely numbers by the singing mothers, hightened the programme.

Little Lorraine Smith has been in hospital to have her appendix removed. We are glad to report that she has recovered nicely.

The evening of November 7 the branch held an "at home and talent evening". Many weeks of secret practising went into this event. Brother Alvin Park was in charge of the arrangements. The programme really provided a variety . . . . solos, quartets, a band and a full chorus. We must not forget the Rowdy Rebels of the Rumpus Relief Society and their lesson in Rhetoria, Recitative and Rhythm.

The party served as a farewell social for Brother Bernie and Brother Martin Rayner who left the following day for the United States. Branch President Alwin Hubert presented them each with a gift.

We are glad to report that Sister Fisher has quite recovered from her illness.

As visitors to the Cape, Brother and Sister Hans Rhode, with their children, from Oranjemund, visited us at district conference.

The conference was held on November 10. There were three sessions. The theme of the gathering was "Why Mormonism?". The choral items, directed by Brother Sam Rayner, and talks by president Glen G. Fisher and President John Wilson, were highlights of the day. Members from many parts of the Cape filled the chapel to over-flowing.

A party was arranged by the MIA special Interest Class on November 12. At the Doll House the class feasted on chicken, and then attended a bioscope. Sister Agnes Hubert and Sister Zoraida Williams were in charge of the social

The MIA held a grand Speech and Music Festival on November 22. Brother Gary Fisher conducted the choir and provided us with a musical treat. The reading and speeches added nicely to the programme as well.

Our sincerest sympathy goes to the members of the Herbst family of Paarl on the death of Brother Adolf Herbst.

WELKOM BRANCH

Meetings: Masonic Hall, Stateway, Welkom.
Branch President: Elder K. G. Wood.
Branch Reporter: Hugh D. Campbell.

The members of the branch are very grateful for the continued increase in membership. During the month we have welcomed into our branch: Sister "Ouma" Botha, Sister Bricknell and her family, Cyril, Nolan, Colin, Bryn, Denzel and little Sharon.

The members and friends of the branch gave a surprise party for Elder Jensen for his 21st birthday. Elder Jensen has been transferred to Pretoria. We are sorry to lose him, but we hope that his replacement, Elder Anderson, will enjoy his work here.

During the month the Relief Society put on a successful supper to raise money for the Sunday School Christmas fund.

The Welkom Branch Genealogical Society is progressing favourably. We hope that members will soon realize the importance of this work and engage in it whole-heartedly.

The Welkom Branch extends hearty season's greetings to everyone throughout the mission field.

LUANSHYA BRANCH.

Meetings: 121 "F' Ave., Luanshya.
Branch President: Douglas Charsley.
Branch Reporter: Jeanne Charsley.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Sister Hannetjie

van Deventer in her recent bereavement.

On November 3 Sister Mary Fourie was baptized and confirmed by Brother Douglas E. Charsley.

On November 1 and 2 the branch enjoyed the birthday parties of Beau Charsley and Mary Anne Fourie respectively.

SALISBURY BRANCH

Meetings: Queen Elizabeth School, Music Hall, Moffat Street,
Branch President: Elder D. L. Chipman.
Branch Reporter: Mary Maxwell.

The branch was happy to welcome back Brother Harry Hodgkiss and family from their holiday in England. We also welcome into the branch Brother and Sister Fred Matthews, who have moved here from Johannesburg.

A most successful Branch Sale of cakes and knitting was held on November 2. Over £40 was gained from this event.

The branch also has a newly organized Social Committee.

We are sorry to bid farewell to Elder L. E. Dahl, our branch president, and Elder D. C. LeBaron. Both of these elders have been transferred. Our new branch president is Elder D. L. Chipman. His companion is Elder Pratt. We hope that both of these elders have a pleasant stay in Salisbury.

PRETORIA BRANCH

Meetings: Sanlam Building, corner of Andries and Pretorius Streets.
Branch President: Lionel Bibb.
Branch Reporter: Patricia Harvey.

The MIA held an "open" night on October 24. It took the form of a silent film show. Everyone enjoyed the pictures and added their appropriate remarks. Refreshments were sold in aid of the building fund.

We had record attendance at the sacrament meeting on October 27. The district presidency were in attendance. President I.C. Louw and Elder Anderson were the speakers.

The Relief Society held a cake sale on November 4. Continuing with their activity, the sisters prepared the sacrament service programme on November 10. It was entitled the "Portrait of a Dream," and was illustrated with appropriate slides.

We are happy to have Sister W. Cooksley back with us, and we pray that she might soon be completely well.

The members of the Pretoria Branch wish to extend sincere Christmas greetings to the members in the mission.

PIETERMARITZBURG BRANCH

Meetings: Oddfellows Hall, 136 Longmarket Street (just above Chapel Street)
Branch President: R. M. Morrissey.
Branch Reporter: Joyce Morrissey.

The past month has been a busy one for our branch. On October 27 the members went to Durban to attend district conference.

President and Sister Fisher visited us shortly afterwards. We held a fireside and heard both of them speak. We extend our best wishes to Sister Fisher after her illness and pray that the Lord will bless her.

Elder Hadfield of the mission presidency spent a week in Pietermaritzburg. Other visitors this month included Elder E. D. LeBaron, district president, Elder K. V. Blackmore and Elder Grant Fisher, from Durban.

Elder Grant Beazer stopped through on his way home to Canada. We held a small party. Brother and Sister van Coller from Durban visited. with Elder Stanford.

We held a very successful fund raising evening for the branch Christmas Tree. Also we held a successful cake sale.

Sister Marjorie Jenkins is on a holiday in Durban for a short time.

We extend congratulations to Brother Gordon Grantham who was ordained into the Aaronic Priesthood. Also we welcome Sister Joy Grantham into the branch. She was baptized recently.

Elder M. D. Caldwell has left to labour in Nothern Rhodesia. Elder G. B. Lyons has taken his place. We hope that he will enjoy success in this field of labour.

PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH

Meetings: 40 Prospect Road, Walmer.
Branch President: C. R. Doller; phone 7620.
Branch Reporter: Madge McHugh.

The branch MIA held the annual Hallowe'en party. All guests were asked to wear fancy dress. It seems that all of the wierd creatures floating around turned up. We had a grand parade of the children, and then for the grown-ups. Two "injuns" persisted in holding pow-wows in the middle of the floor. A wonderful time was had by all. Games were played, refreshments served, and the evening ended in dancing.

Relief Society planned the Sunday evening service on November 3. Reading was done by Sister Madge McHugh, Sister Trollip and Sister Barnett. Projection of slide and lighting was handled by Elder I. K. Burbank and Elder Thomas Goetz.

Several from the branch will travel to the convention in Johannesburg. We are looking forward to it. We take this opportunity to wish all of the missionaries and members in the mission a Merry Christmas.

BULAWAYO BRANCH

Meetings: Boy Scout Headquarters, 8th Ave. Ext., off Lobangula Street.
Branch President: Elder C. K. Lybbert.
Branch Reporter: Marjorie Paterson.

On October 26 the branch held a social which was very well attended. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

We all wish Sister Taylor a happy journey and best wishes on her return to England. She will visit briefly with her son ,and then move to Scotland to live with her sister. On October 24 and 25 Elder H. D. Boucher and Elder S. J. D. Butler travelled to Gwelo to baptize Sister Minnie Budd. We welcome her as a new member of the Church.

We are pleased that Sister Isaac is feeling better after her illness. We look forward to having her meet with the branch once more. Christmas greetings go from the Bulawayo Branch to all of the mission.

KRUGERSDORP BRANCH

Meetings: Krugersdorp Town Hall, Lecture Room.
Branch President: Deryck Vice: phone 660-6232.
Branch Reporter: Sister M. M. Vice.

The Krugersdorp Relief Society held their bazaar in the town hall on November 9. It was a great success and the Relief Society must be congratulated on a fine effort.

The local building fund continues to progress, and all of the members are thrilled with the prospect of a new chapel. The building fund committee is very active in their various projects.

We welcome Brother David Braithwaite and Sister May Jacobs . . . two youngsters who were baptized at Ramah on September 29.

The Sunday School conducted the evening service on November 3. It was a special programme and some inspirational talks were given.

The Krugersdorp Relief Society visited the meeting of the Ramah Branch Relief Society on November 21. Sister Wrench presented a lovely lesson.

Brother and Sister Powrie have just returned from a touring holiday, and we welcome them back after their well-earned rest.

We of the Krugersdorp Branch extend Christmas wishes to all of the members in the mission.

BELLVILLE BRANCH

Meetings: Public Library, off Main Road, Bellville.
Branch President: N. J. Goosen, phone 973285.
Branch Reporter: Felicity Barnes.

On Sunday, November 10, a district conference was held at Cumorah. The talks were all inspiring, and it was pleasant to visit with our many friends.

On November 16 the Bellville Branch arranged a braaivleis which was held on the farm of Brother Eric Jakins at Eerste River. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of games and refreshments.

The MIA of the Mowbray Branch arranged a "Music and Speech Festival" on November 22. Sister Mary Dean, Sister Heila Goosen, Sister Marein Goosen and Sister Felicity Barnes of the Bellville Branch participated. Talks were given by some of the young people, and the choir sang many lovely hymns.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Brother Adolf Herbst who passed away recently Brother Herbst was a frequent, and welcome visitor to our branch.

EAST LONDON BRANCH

Meetings: Sons of England Hall, Belgravia Crescent, East London.
Branch President: Alfred J. Corrigan; phone 81821.
Branch Reporter: Rita Corrigan.

Branch conference was held on October 27. The theme was "In the Service of Our Father". Some lovely talks were given. We missed President and Sister Fisher but enjoyed the visit of Elder K. L. Hadfield of the mission presidency, for our conference.

In the evening after the closing meeting we held a fireside and were entertained by Sister Hees. Elder Hadfield related some of his missionary experiences.

November 1 found the branch members gathered in full force at the home of Sister Hall to celebrate Hallowe'en. Cats and a mysterious "Witches' Brew" were provided by the sisters.

Elder Orr and Elder Harper were responsible for the "spook alley" which caused many shrieks and pale faces.

We were sad to bid farewell to Elder Orr who left for the Transvaal after a long stay in our branch.

We were happy to welcome Elder Thomas on November 8, and heard him talk at the Sacrament service and fireside the following Sunday.

Saturday evening Nov. 16, the branch members gathered for a braaivleis organized by the Priesthood members to raise building fund money. There were misgivings with regards to the weather, but it turned out to be a lovely evening and a lovely party.

We were happy to have the Clarke family from Jaggersfontein amongst our visitors this month. We are only sorry that they decided not to stay in our branch.

We were sorry to hear of the illness of Sister Fisher and pray for her speedy recovery.

BENONI BRANCH

Meetings: Masonic Hall, Amphill Ave., Benoni.
Branch President: J. H. Adendorff; phone 54-6277.
Branch Reporter: Ann Coetzee.

We are sorry to see our Chorister, Sister Margaret Coetzee, leave us. She has left to go to Los Angeles, California. Although we are reluctant to lose her, we wish her every happiness.

With much pleasure we welcome Brother and Sister Richards, and their family, from Bellville, into our branch. We are looking forward to the pleasure of their association.

We regret to report that Brother Brummer's illness still persists.

The branch extends to everyone a warm Christmas greeting.

NORTH WESTERN BRANCH

Meetings: 87—8th Str., Parkhurst, Johannesburg.
Branch President: William Brummer; phone 27-1407.
Branch Reporter: J. H. Wagener.

Although the month of November was rather quiet, we had a good month and feel that our efforts were well rewarded.

Attendance at all meetings during the month was better than average, and some inspiring talks were given. The visits of Brother and Sister N. G. Muir, and later in the month, of Brother and Sister I. C. Louw, the district president and his wife, were much appreciated.

On Friday, November 30, the Relief Society brought their season to a close with a very successful curry and rice dinner at the home of Brother and Sister Seemen. After the dinner and dishwashing ceremony, a session of music and song was enjoyed by everybody.

OBITUARY

The pioneer ranks of the South African Mission were thinned last month with the passing of Brother Adolf Herbst of Paarl.

Brother Herbst has been a stalwart member of the Church for 30 years, and his cheerful disposition was well known and loved by many of the members and missionaries in the Cape District. We extend our sincere sympathy to the members of his family and pray that they might share with us, confidence in a kind Heavenly Father and a just Redeemer.

MISSION STATISTICS

ORDINATIONS

HARRIS, John Henry—ordained an Elder, October 15, 1957, by President Glen G. Fisher (Springs).

GOETSCH, Robert Earle — ordained a Deacon, October 13, 1957, by Elder Ken V. Blackmore (Krugersdorp).

GREER, Harry — ordained a Teacher, October 13, 1957, by C. Kenneth Powrie (Krugerdorp).

WAGSTAFF, Edwin Neil — ordained a Deacon, October 13, 1957, by Izak C. Louw (Ramah).

RAUTENBACH, Aubrey Archibald—ordained a Deacon, October 13, 1957, by Elder L'Dean McCue. (Ramah).

BILLETT, Douglas Derek—ordained a Priest, October 13, 1957, by Ray Gordon Willson (Durban).

DOLLER, Harlan Burns Grant — ordained a Priest, October 13, 1957, by Le Grand Alton R. Doller (Durban).

BAYLEY, Raymond Dennis—ordained a Priest, October 13, 1957, by Charles Ivor van Coller (Durban).

TROLLIP, Havelock—ordained an Elder, October 20, 1957, by President Glen G. Fisher (Port Elizabeth).

PIENAAR, Zacharias Johannes — ordained a Priest, October 13, 1957, by Izak C. Louw (Pretoria).

LION-CACHET, Jan—ordained a Priest, October 13, 1957, by Elder Norman J. Law (Pretoria).

SMIT, Johannes Hendrick Louis—ordained an Elder, October 13, 1957, by F. Donly (Pretoria).

VAN STADEN, Nicholas Hermanus—ordained an Elder, October 13, 1957, by N. G. Muir (Pretoria).

GRANTHAM, Walter Gordon—ordained a Deacon, October 27, 1957, by President Glen G. Fisher (Pietermaritzburg).

MARITZ, Willem Hendrik — ordained a Priest, November 3, 1957, by Gordon C. Terblanche (Mowbray).

BROWN, Christopher — ordained a Priest, November 3, 1957, by Clyde J. D. Geldenhuys (Mowbray).

RIX, Kenneth Albert — ordained a Priest, November 3, 1957, by Samuel J. Rayner. (Mowbray).

SMITH, Richard Warrington—ordained a Priest, November 3, 1957, by Theo M. Rayner (Mowbray).

MARRIAGES

WOUDBERG, Anna Elizabeth (Peens) (Smith)—to Daniel Jacobus Erasmus, on August 20, 1957, at Pretoria, Transvaal.

MUIR, Norman Ivan, — to Herculina Louisa Jonson, October 5, 1957, at Ramah, Johannesburg, Transvaal.

STEMMET, Sarita — to Lambertus Christiaan Groenewald, on October 12, 1957, at Vierfontein, O.F.S.

BLESSINGS

OSBORNE, Catherine,—daughter of Bro. & Sis. Gilbert Osborne, October, 13 1957, by Alwin W. H. Hurbert (Mowbray).

RIDGEWAY, Sandra Christine — daugther of Bro. & Sis. Fredrick T. Ridgeway, October 13, 1957, by Elder Dean Hunt (Mowbray).

VAN WYK, Lindsoy—son of Bro. & Sis. Matthuy van Wyk, July 1957, by Vincent Doller (Port Elizabeth).

DOLLER, Karen Elizabeth — daughter of Bro. & Mrs. Clarence R. Doller, October 20, 1957, by Glen Fisher (Port Elizabeth)

TYLER, Mark Royston, son of Bro. & Sis. Lionel R. Tyler, October 6, 1957, by Elder Jack Holt (Springs).

BRICKNELL, Bryn David,—son of Mr. & Sis. Ivor L. Bricknell, November 3, 1957, by Elder H. F. Jensen (Welkom).

BRICKNELL, Denzil Robert—son of Mr. & Sis. Ivor L. Bricknell, November 3, 1957, by Elder Grant D. Beazer (Welkom).

BRICKNELL, Sharon Rose—daughter of Mr. & Sis. Ivor L. Bricknell, November 3, 1957, by Elder K. Grant Wood (Welkom)

SWART, Gregory—son of Bro. & Sis. Johannes P. Swart, November 3, 1957, by Elder Melvin J. Lawlor. (Ramah)

SWART, Carol Ann — daughter of Bro. & Sis Johannes P. Swart, November 3, 1957, by Elder James H. Thomas (Ramah).

UREN, Brenda Sheilah Doris — daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Albert Charles Uren, November 3, 1957, by Elder Melvin J. Lawlor (Ramah)

UREN, Sharon Louise—daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. C. Uren, November 3, 1957, by Elder Clarence W. Hunter (Ramah).

RAUTENBACH, Aubrey Archibald—son of Bro. & Sis. Aubrey A. Rautenbach, November 3, 1957, by Elder G. L. Layton (Ramah).

RAUTENBACH, Tersia—daughter of Bro. & Sis. Aubrey A. Rautenbach, November 3, 1957, by Elder L'Dean McCue (Ramah)

BAPTISMS

FOURIE, Marianna—B. November 3, 1957, by Douglas E. Charley. C. Douglas E. Charley (Launshya).

SMITH, Eric Arthur Jr.,—B. September 29, 1957, by Gordon Ross Dell. C. Elder Dan LeRoy Chipman (Ramah).

HAMILTON, John William — B. October 27, 1957, by Elder Dan Le Roy Chipman. C. Edward S. Tewson (Ramah).

VAN NIEKERK, Catharina Wilhelmina — B. October 27, 1957, by Johannes Paulus Brummer. C. Johannes Paulus Brummer (Ramah).

COPELAND, Keith Roland Michael — B. October 27, 1957, by Christian Hendrick Louw C. Elder James Whitehead (Ramah).

SWART, Johannes Paules—B. October 27, 1957, by Elder Melvin J. Lawlor. C. Elder James H. Thomas (Ramah).

SWART, Ethel Doreen (Dodds)—B. October 27, 1957, by Elder James H. Thomas. C. Elder Melvin J. Lawlor (Ramah).

HOULDSWORTH, Annie Dorothy—B. October 27, 1957, by Elder Kelvin Smith. C. Elder Derril Butler (Ramah)

HOULDSWORTH, Dorothy Agnes—B. October 27, 1957, by Elder Kelvin Smith. C. Elder L'Dean McCue (Ramah)

BUDD, Jacomina Susanna (Vermeulen) — B. October 25, 1957, by Elder Harold D. Boucher, C. Elder Sylvan George D. Butler. (Gwelo).

HOLTSHOUSEN, Violet Winnifred (Hauser)—B. November 3, 1957, by Elder Jacob S. Whitehead. C. Elder Kay H. Salmon (Springs).

HOLTSHOUSEN, Cecily Ingrid—B. November 3, 1957, by Elder Jacob S. Whitehead, C. Elder Kay H. Salmon, (Springs).

HOLTSHOUSEN, Steven Craig— B. November 3, 1957, by Elder Kay H. Salmon. C. Elder Jacob S. Whitehead (Springs).

LUYENDIJK, Aletta Gerbregga Magdalena—B. November 3, 1957, by Elder Jacob S. Whitehead. C. Elder Kay H. Salmon (Springs).

BOTHA, Cathrine Maria Venter—B. November 3, 1957, by Elder Harold F. Jenson. C. Elder Andre Naude (Welkom).

BRICKNELL, Nolan Leslie — B. November 3, 1957, by Elder Harold F. Jensen. C. Elder Andre Naude (Welkom).

BRICKNELL, Colon Horton—B. November 3, 1957, by Elder Harold F. Jensen. C. Elder Harold F. Jensen (Welkom).

BRICKNELL, Cyril Ivor—B. November 3, 1957, by Elder Harold F. Jensen. C. Elder Grant D. Beazer (Welkom).

BRICKNELL, Winifred Rose Scotten — B. November 3, 1957, by Elder Harold F. Jensen. C. Elder K. Grant Wood (Welkom).

GRANTHAM, Margaret Agnes Joy — B. Elder Mark Merrill. C. R. M. Morrissey: November 10, 1957 (Pietermaritzburg).

MILLER, Merle Ann Schmidt—B. Elder Jesse Gibb, November 10, 1957. C. Elder Grant Fisher (Durban).

MILLER, Nigel Jerrard—B. Elder Grant Fisher, November 10, 1957. C. Elder Jesse Gibb. (Durban).

MILLER, Malcolm Bruce—B. Elder Jesse Gibb, November 10, 1957. C. Elder Grant Fisher (Durban).

MILLER, Brian—B. Elder Grant Fisher, November 10, 1957. C. Elder Jesse Gibb (Durban).

MILLER, Heather — B. Elder Grant Fisher, November 10, 1957. C. Elder Jesse Gibb (Durban).

MILLER, Stewart James—B. Elder Jesse Gibb, November 10, 1957. C. Elder Grant Fisher (Durban)

SHARPE, Francis Noel Brian—B. Elder Dale LeBaron, November 10, 1957. C. Alan Harker (Durban).

WINSTANLEY, Elizabeth Mary Hill—B. Elder Alan Harker, November 10, 1957. C. Melvin Jakins (Durban).

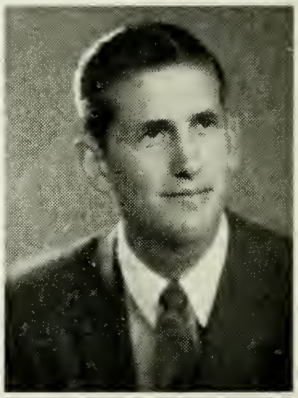
HENNING, Marlene—B. Victor Henning, November 10, 1957. C. Elder Grant Fisher (Durban).

OUWERKERK, Gerard Marinus—B. Elder Alan Harker, November 10, 1957. C. Elder Dale LeBaron (Durban).

OUWERKERK, Estelle Patricia Dunbar — B. Elder Dale LeBaron, November 10, 1957. C. Alan Harker (Durban).

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

Elder N. G. Stanford



Elder G. D. Beazer

Elder G. D. Beazer and Elder N. G. Stanford were honourably released from their missionary labours and sailed for their homes in Canada on November 22. Elder Beazer is from Cardston, Alberta, and Elder Stanford is from Granum, Alberta.

Elder Beazer completed his mission in Bloemfontein. Before that he worked in Johannesburg and Pietermaritzburg. Elder Stanford worked in Johannesburg, Germiston and Northern Rhodesia.

* * *

Two new missionaries arrived in Cape Town aboard the Edinburgh Castle on November 14. Elder Barry Pratt is from Bow Island, Alberta. He will begin his work in Salisbury. Elder Vaughan Hunsaker is from Lethbridge, Alberta. He has been assigned to work in Bulawayo.

The Spirit Is Reality

from **THE CHURCH SECTION DESERET NEWS.**

THERE CAN BE NO doubt about it — the Christmas spirit does penetrate the hard shell of every day life, and makes each person feel better toward his fellow man.

That feeling may be very temporary, as it is in most cases, but nevertheless it is there. "Good will toward men." It is in the air, it is in the heart. With each chime heard from the ringing bells, with each carol that is sung, with each purchase that is made, it is there—"Good will toward men."

No one can deny it, the spirit of the Christ-child comes to nearly all who believe in him, his message is remembered, even if but briefly, and for the time being there is a warmth about the heart and a genuine desire to wish others well as we say our "Merry Christmas."

When some claim that the spirit of Christ is hardly to be found in the world, they forget the miracle of each Christmas season, for at this time of the year, nearly everyone feels a certain uplift, an uncommon generosity which we do not experience during the rest of the year.

IT IS AS A MIRACLE in the eyes of all who are willing to see. The Spirit of Christmas is real, it does endure year after year, it never ceases to rise to the surface although submerged between seasons, and it never fails to bring a certain exultation to the human heart.

Somehow, the Lord permits his spirit to reach the hearts of men a little more at Christmas time. Somehow, he gives testimony in a manner which never can be forgotten that in all reality the spirit of Christmas is the spirit of good will.

When Dickens wrote his "Christmas Carol" he pointed up that important fact. There are many Scrooges in the world today, and there are many who suffer because of them. But at Christmas time, most hearts are softened, there is a more kindly attitude.

ISN'T IT ALL A TESTIMONY to the message of the angel? Of course the spirit of Christmas is the spirit of good will. Of course all feel it, even though they may be in meager circumstances. It is there.

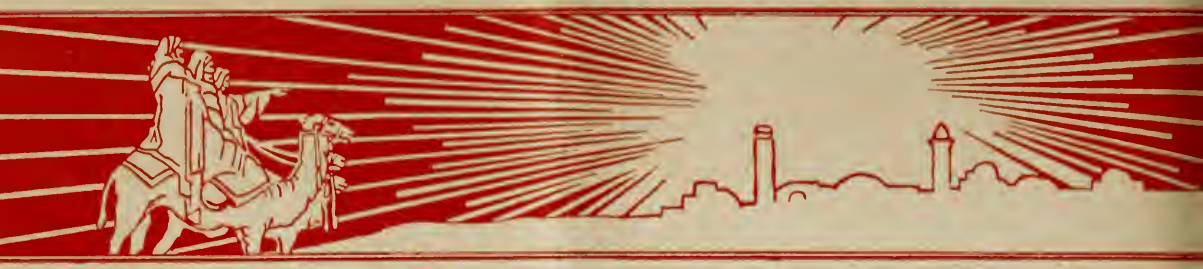
If we could but translate that individual good feeling to world wide accord, how wonderful would Christmas be! It is true that many nations in the world do not consider the lowly Nazarene as the divine Son of God, which he is, but if only the so-called Christian nations could unite under a banner of good will, it would be a great accomplishment. And how they need it. Have there ever been greater or more terrible wars than those fought by Christian nations against each other? Christendom need not blame the heathen for their worst wars.

If Christian peoples would but adapt to their daily practices the religion which they claim as their own, there could be good will in the earth on a world wide scale, and there need be no more war. If wars between Christian nations were to be eliminated, we would make a great step forward in the cause of world peace.

PROBABLY THE EFFECTIVENESS of Christianity in the last analysis comes back to the degree to which Christ is a reality to these Shristian nations. There is much confusion among them on this point. Some Christians are willing enough to accept Jesus as the Redeemer, the Creator, the Son of God. But there are many who are not. Even among the preachers there is a wide difference. Some are not willing to admit he is divine, some do not believe he is more than a great teacher, some do not admit that there was anything miraculous about his birth, many deny the Redeemership of the Redeemer!

Because of this confusion, Christ is not yet a genuine reality to many people. Is it any wonder then that mankind lacks a clear picture of the Christ, of his teachings, and of his power to give to each one a re-birth which would remove from their souls bitterness and hate, and replace them with love and a spirit of brotherhood.

As Latter-day Saints who understand the position of the Christ, let us set the example of good will in the world. Let us be brethren among ourselves, and then help all others to know the real meaning of the angel's message on that first Christmas Day.



FROM the twinkly star at the top of each Christmas tree, to the gayly wrapped packages at the bottom . . .from the candy in the Christmas morning stocking, to the last forced bite of roast turkey . . . . . from the excitement of the first visit to the department store toyland to the last minute shopping on Christmas eve . . . . . Christmas belongs to the children. It is their day, and each piece of tinsel paper . . . . . each Christmas tree ball . . . . . each piece of candy . . . . each new toy spreads the happy breath of Christmas magic.

A great part of Christmas magic comes from reverence. Each year, just after New Year, the Christmas stories, the carols and the decorations are carefully tucked away, to rest in hallowed santity until the next December. Who would dare to read Tiny Tim and Scrooge in the middle of April? Or who would dare to sing Silent night in June or July?

And among those sacred Christmas tales is one that holds the most magic for the children. It is their story, especially. It is about three very rich and wise men, who on that first Christmas, so many-many years ago, knelt and offered their gifts and allegience to a tiny child.

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